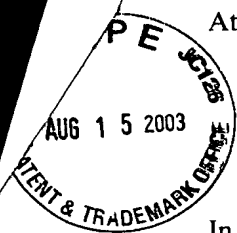


Attorney Docket No. 18733/00070



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3683
57
#A
8-25-03

In re:
U.S. Application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi
WATANABE
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREOF
Confirmation No.: 8523
U.S. Serial No.: 09/994,526
Filed: November 27, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3683
Examiner: Devon C. Kramer

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Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
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August 12, 2003

Date of Deposit

Brian E. Harris

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered
Representative

Signature

August 12, 2003

Date of Signature

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish
to bring the following item to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the item is enclosed for
the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material
does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative
pertinence. The reference cited below is not intended to constitute an admission of any kind.
Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the item listed below is properly citable
against the above-identified application.

Serial No.: 09/994,526


Submitted herewith is a copy of the European Search Report (dated March 31, 2003), for related European Patent Application No. EP 01 12 9365. The European Search Report cites the following:

- (1) Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1999, no. 12, published January 3, 2001, relating to Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No (A) 2000-247244 (KAYABA IND CO LTD), published September 12, 2000; and
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No (A) 11-180318 (NIPPON SEIKO KK), published July 6, 1999.

Document (2) was previously presented in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 27, 2001 (copy not enclosed).

As this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months of being first cited in a foreign communication in a counterpart foreign application, and subsequent to receipt of the first Office Action, please charge the \$180.00 fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. If it should be determined that an additional fee is required, please charge any other required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260. The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Brian E. Harris
Registration No. 48,383
Agent for Applicants

BEH/rb
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 North Harwood
Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 981-3461 Direct
(214) 981-3300 Main
(214) 981-3400 Facsimile
August 12, 2003